

5

Reflexive pronouns



Usage

There are different kinds of pronouns. We learnt about personal pronouns and possessive pronouns in *Grammar Revolution S.1*. In this unit, we are going to learn about reflexive pronouns. We use a reflexive pronoun when:

1. the subject and object of a sentence refer to the same person or thing.

Subject **Object (= Judy)**



e.g. Judy cut **herself** with a cutter accidentally.

2. we want to emphasise someone doing something without help.

e.g. Can the babies feed **themselves**?



Part 1 Revision: Personal Pronouns & Possessive Pronouns

We use a personal pronoun to replace a noun; while we use a possessive pronoun to show that something belongs to someone.

Personal pronoun		Possessive pronoun
Subject pronoun	Object pronoun	
I	me	mine
we	us	ours
you	you	yours
they	them	theirs
he	him	his
she	her	hers
it	it	-

Exercise 1

Fill in the blanks with the correct pronouns.

1. The policeman claimed that _____ did not hit the protestors.
2. Daisy said that the cat with black and white fur was _____.
3. I can lend my tablet to you. You can use _____.
4. My mother works very hard so we help _____ with the housework every day.
5. I sold my car to Daniel last month so the car is not _____ any more.
6. The waitress showed _____ the way to our table.



Part 2 Reflexive Pronouns

We use a reflexive pronoun when the subject and object of a sentence refer to the same person or thing. In this case, we put a reflexive pronoun after a verb.

	Subject	Verb	Reflexive pronoun	
Singular	I	locked	myself	in a room.
	You		yourself	
	He / She		himself / herself	
	It		itself	
Plural	We	ourselves		
	You	yourselves		
	They	themselves		

We can also put a reflexive pronoun after 'a verb + a preposition' and 'an adjective + a preposition'.

e.g. Can you look after yourself when your parents are away?

e.g. I'm not angry at you. I'm angry at myself!



Educator's Tips

Don't mix up an object pronoun with a reflexive pronoun.

e.g. Grace won the piano competition. Mum is proud of her.

her: Grace

e.g. Mum is proud of herself because she has made a delicate cake.

herself: Mum

Exercise 2.1

Circle the correct pronouns in brackets.

1. My brother cut (himself / him) by accident while he was using a pair of scissors.
2. Little Jenny can tie the shoelaces on her own. We are so proud of (her / herself).
3. Joe's parents never need to worry about (him / himself).
4. Please help look after your sister. She is too little to take care of (her / herself).
5. The girls are enjoying (them / themselves) at the party now.
6. Jack isn't well-liked by his classmates since he is too proud of (him / himself).
7. My dog acts like a cat as it always licks (it / itself).



We can use a reflexive pronoun to talk about someone doing something without others' help. We add *by* or *all by* before it to emphasise the idea of doing something **alone**.

	Subject	Verb		(by / all by)	Reflexive pronoun
Singular	I	finished	the task	(by / all by)	myself.
	You				yourself.
	He / She				himself / herself.
	It				itself.
Plural	We				ourselves.
	You				yourselves.
	They				themselves.



Educator's Tips



Don't mix up *yourselves*, *ourselves* and *themselves* with the pronoun *each other*.

e.g. Jane and Edmond are looking at **each other**.



(= Jane is looking at Edmond. Edmond is looking at Jane.)

e.g. Jane and Edmond are looking at **themselves**.



(= Jane is looking at herself. Edmond is looking at himself.)

Exercise 2.2

Complete the following sentences by putting a tick (✓) in the correct boxes.

1. My dad is good at cooking. He can cook many dishes at one time _____.
 by himself by him by he
2. My friends and I are laughing at _____ because we have made a silly mistake.
 we us ourselves
3. The lady with a big tummy is my friend. I know _____.
 she her herself
4. Koey never buys clothes. She makes the clothes _____.
 all by herself by her by she
5. Cats don't need to be groomed too often as they can lick _____ clean.
 itself them themselves
6. Why do you always spend over an hour a day looking at _____ in the mirror?
 you yours yourself

Exercise 2.3

Fill in the blanks with the correct pronouns.

1. Tammy: Don't talk to **(a)** _____ in public. People may think you're abnormal!
Annie: No worries. I'll take out my mobile phone and pretend that I'm just talking on **(b)** _____.
2. Katy: Does **(a)** _____ belong to our sports team? I mean the tall boy over there.
Daisy: Sure! He's a new member of **(b)** _____. He practises hard by **(c)** _____ every day. We all appreciate **(d)** _____.
3. Pamela: Shall we exchange Christmas gifts? We need to prepare a present for **(a)** _____. Is it a good idea?
Jack: Yes, it's great! I'm sure that we'll have much fun **(b)** _____!

Unit Recap

Miranda is writing a postcard to her cousin, Vanessa, who is studying in the UK. Complete the postcard with the correct pronouns in brackets.

Dear Vanessa,

How are **(1)** _____ (you / yourself)? We haven't seen **(2)** _____ (each other / ourselves) for a long time. Aunt Ruby told **(3)** _____ (I / me) that you're studying in the UK. **(4)** _____ (I / Me) guess you must be missing Hong Kong and all the family members here, so I decided to send you a picture of **(5)** _____ (ourselves / us) on the postcard. We're enjoying **(6)** _____ (ourselves / us) in the photo. I hope you'll like it because I made it **(7)** _____ (itself / myself).

My elder brother Steve feels so happy for you because **(8)** _____ (he / himself) thinks it is a great **experience** to study abroad. Currently, he is planning to go on a trip to Europe **(9)** _____ (him / himself) in July.

Mum, Dad and I want to come and visit you too, but they're always **occupied** with their work because no one else can help **(10)** _____ (them / they)!

Do you find it difficult to take care of **(11)** _____ (you / yourself)? Please write back soon.

Love,
Miranda



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Vocabulary:

experience (n.): knowledge or skill from doing, seeing or feeling things

occupied (adj.): busy doing something